

Minutes of the Southeast PTO
October 5, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: 7:10 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Fisher-Doiron, Edmond & Amy Chibeau , Lesley Sweeney, Kim O’Keefe, Monique Brown, Irene Sheehan, Kimberly Clark, Ron Baker, Linda Blum, Margie Ouimette, Karen Sommer, Wendy Hamlin, Jean Phillips, Susan Irvine, Meredith Lindsay, Christina Thompson, Carol Bonacum, Maragret Morrison

CARNIVAL WRAP UP: Wendy Hamlin reviewed the responsibilities of the Carnival Coordinator. She wanted to also report that there were 10 cases of water donated but not used at the last carnival. It could be sold or saved. Kim O’Keefe said we use it at Grandparent’s Day and the Tag Sale so it was decided that it be saved for later events. Wendy mentioned that the sound system used at the last carnival belonged to them (The Hamlins). We need to decide if we want to purchase some kind of sound system for the cake walk, auction, etc. Wendy passed out the listing of all the categories and reviewed the different responsibilities. Some people will continue in their current role. The biggest job is to head up volunteers and organize them as the carnival needs 32-34 volunteers and we are many times short. She noted that the games were made up 10 years ago and need to be refreshed/changed. There was a suggestion to have a miniature golf course. Another suggestion was to ask Betsy Parker to offer ideas. Wendy noted that concessions is also a big responsibility. We need a permit now. This year we hired a “chef” to oversee it in lieu of a permit. Wendy will email pertinent information to anyone that signs up to help, giving more specific details, materials, etc. It was suggested that Karen Mitlinsky be a focal person in the future as she already does quite a bit already.

ENRICHMENT REPORT: Sue Irvine

Looking for more help with enrichment Clusters this fall. Sue suggested that making carnival games could be a cluster. Susan also reported that Chris Briere made \$260 with his “croc” sales, of which he will donate \$80 to the PTO.

Sue elaborated on where the money that the PTO gives to enrichment goes, including assemblies, residencies, cluster materials, etc. This year there is a “Biomes” aquarium program that is open to all classrooms. There is also an assembly on Friday about Yo-Yo’s that is offered at no charge. The program is titled, “How School is Cool”. We are also having the National Marionette Theatre come to do “Aladdin”. There will be an opportunity for questions and exploratory time after the presentation. We have plans for a puppetry residency this year. We usually average about 2-3 assemblies a year. We will have 2 more this year in the spring. Last year we had Archaeologists in Residence. The residencies have evolved since we started offering them. They used to be a one week “immersion” activity for all classes and then a performance. Lately we’ve offered more extended residencies; i.e. all year with 4 – 5 sessions for each class and a culmination activity. Teachers attend workshops too, to learn and add to the curriculum. The

enrichment committee tries to mix in free activities with paid ones, especially for school wide assemblies. We have offered a variety of opportunities, including dance, music, and science. The Enrichment Team has meetings the third Tues of the month from 8:15 – 8:45AM in the Enrichment room. Kids can come. Please contact Sue with ideas even if you can't make the meetings or you can contact one of the PTO officers if you are interested in helping out.

THANKS YOUS: Ron Baker

Kim O'Keefe: For organizing the Big Y points program and for her playground fundraising efforts

Linda Blum: For looking into a chess club and ordering paper supplies

Irene Sheehan: For organizing the carnival baskets

Linda Sydie: For organizing the Scrip program and for help with the baskets

Joan Pinney: For supply closet help, T-Shirt sales and Food table at the Carnival

Richelle Strimple: For carnival Bake Sale

Karen Mitlinksy and the Hamlin Family & Kim O'Keefe: For running the carnival and presenting tonight

Margaret Morrison: For her work on the Silent Auction and the "Wrap Up Tea"

Monica Wilding: For organizing the gift wrap fundraiser

Kim Ewalt & Julianna Barrett: For running the Wrapping Paper Fundraiser

Dawn Rawlinson: For collecting Box Tops

Norma Fisher Dorion, Monique Brown and Betsy Parker: For working at the carnival

Jane Hazzard: For helping to hand out auction prizes

Jean Phillips: For her work on the carnival especially the Silent Auction, and coordinating Family Skating Night

To all the Classroom families who donated items to the silent auction including Allison Scgroeder, The Banfield Family; The Goffinet and Smetts Family; The Hayes Family; Jane Hazzard; Kristine and Robert Thorson; The Lester Family; The Lisa & Grant Morrison Family; Lisa Kruger; The Margaret and Tyler Morrison Family; Michele Beers; Monica Wilding; The Phillips Family; The Pinney Family; Sergeant Cox; The Soracchi Family; Susannah Richards; The Sydie Family and those who gave anonymously
Ron will be sending out thank you notes to these people.

Norma suggested putting the notes in the school newsletter.

Carnival Wrap Up: Jean Phillips

The Silent Auction took in \$2239 during the fair and then \$2250 was collected afterwards, totaling \$4489. \$1614 came in from the rest of carnival, totaling \$6101.00. There are people in place for next years auction but help is still wanted. Jean offered that she will be at Southeast one more year as a resource person. Lesley Sweeney accounted for a carnival expense of \$80.50 for the "chef".

Meredith Lindsay, a candidate for Board of Ed in Region 19, passed out a flyer and shared her family information and experiences with our school system. She stated that she is attending Board of Ed meetings regularly. She also stated that she is a Republican, but feels she "stands for what's good for our kids" more than as a party rep. Ms. Lindsay then requested our support and said "Thank you" for allowing her to speak. Edmond

Chibeu mentioned that she was able to speak at the meeting “because she asked” and we will offer an equal opportunity to any other representatives that would like to present at future meetings.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: Passed out calendar of events for review Highlights:

October	7 = photos, Yo-Yo Demonstration 10 = Columbus Day – No School 11 = Professional Development Day – No School 14 = Fire Safety Day 19 - Nov 16 = Wed 2:15 – 3:15 Enrichment Clusters 20 = Safety Drills 25 = Governor’s Reading Challenge Ceremony 27 = International Pot Luck Supper
November	2 = Aladdin Puppet Show 11 = Veteran’s Day – No School 14 = Professional Development Day – No School 17 = Thanksgiving Lunch 18 – 23 = Book Fair 21 = Evening Parent Conferences 22 = Afternoon Parent Conferences 23 = Turkey Trot 24, 25 = Thanksgiving Break – No School

Norma Fisher-Dorion also wanted to say “Thank you” to the PTO for making such a wonderful community at Southeast School.

TEACHER’S REPORT: Nothing to report

SECRETARIES REPORT: September’s minutes were reviewed

Edits: Book Fair will have set up on 17th and is running the 18th – 23rd

“Monica Willding” is the one responsible for the Bulb fundraiser

Norma edited “Parents’ ”, as opposed to “Parent’s” Hour

On Page 3 change “Irene” to “Ron” on Budget committee.

Motion for acceptance as amended: Ron Baker

2nd by : Lesley Sweeney

All in Favor with 1 abstention

Jean Phillips requested that the PTO vote to give \$100 for a gift certificate to a restaurant to say “thank you” for the 10 years of hard work the Hamlin’s have put into the fall carnival. There was no discussion. All voted in favor of this motion.

Linda Blum wanted to motion to give \$100 back into reviving the games. Christina Thompson volunteered to refresh the carnival games. Kimberly Clark motioned, Margaret Morrison seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Christina wanted to offer her contact information in case anyone wanted to help with the carnival games:

Christina Thompson
423-3487
sathompson@snet.net

Jean Phillips motioned that the PTO give \$250 to the fund set up for the Carol boys. She felt we had set precedence in giving previously to a family during their time of loss. Margaret Morrison seconded the motion. The discussion ended and it unanimously carried.

Lesley Sweeney asked where she should take this money from. Norma Fisher-Doiron mentioned the "Sunshine" fund and then the "Miscellaneous" fund.

Karen Sommer looked in the **Peobody Museum pass**. It was extended two months as a compensation for the changes to the pass. It expires next spring. It used to be admission for 4 people; now it is \$5 off each admission which is not significant change. Karen looked through all the programs offered. She talked with Judy at the Library about what people ask for the most. The Pequot Museum pass was asked for a lot (which is \$200 just for a reduction in admission price) The Science Center of CT is also requested a lot (which is \$100) There is no pass for it now at library. It offers one child free with every paid admission which is approximately \$7. The New Britain Museum of Art is \$50 and gets 4 people in free. Kim O'Keefe questioned spending money on this as a town supported library should cover things like this. Linda Blum liked introducing families to a new museum. Edmond Chibeau said to put it in the budget pending future issues and given potential future problems. Jean Phillips supported not buying this item. Amy Chibeau felt that the PTO supporting such an item broadens the spectrum of what we offer. Jean Phillips said the museum is very child friendly. A suggestion was made to table the discussion to a future meeting.

PLAYSCAPE

Kim O'Keefe stated she was "begging for money" for the playscape. She went over the history of rebuilding the playscape. Phase I & II are finished. We are now looking at one more attachment and to replace the fire truck. There are no specs or a formalized plan. Kim has pictures of the plan. She really wants to see it completed but needs more support to complete it. The remaining part is for older children. The upcoming fundraisers include tee-shirts, cookbooks, and a coin drive weighing the coins and the class with most LBS of coins gets a party. The town is still matching our funds. It will cost 22,000 – 25,000K for last part. Kim felt we need to look at what we have for surplus. We are in then "red" right now by \$180. Kim mentioned that the Tag Sale, the notecards, and the classroom baskets were originally for the playscape fund. Amy Chibeau offered the suggestion to package tee-shirts with a laundry pen to promote sales. Ron Baker offered to join the Playscape committee as did Karen Sommer. Kim suggested publicizing the fact that the playscape isn't done yet and we still need money as even parents here at Southeast don't know. She will get a letter out to parents. Karen Sommer said that the playscape sign was confusing. Kim mentioned that the coin drive will have a large "thermometer" to make it a more mathematical than "money" driven activity. It was stated that a picture of the old playscape is still on the web site. Should we put the

thermometer on the website? Kim suggested starting a fundraiser where teachers would have “a helper for the day” for \$10. Linda Blum feels that because this is a part of the educational day, we need to rethink. It was suggested to brainstorm with the teachers about ideas. After school activities have always been popular at the silent auction. Kim said teachers need to be connected some how to the fundraising. Edmond Chibeau mentioned that the PTO is bringing this issue “to a front burner”.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Lesley Sweeney

Budget: Norma Fisher-Doiron sat with her and they worked out a budget. Lesley shared the numbers. She wants to focus on a balanced budget. We should have a reserve. 3K is our reserve now.

Projected income of \$13, 800

Projected expenses of \$13, 800

PTO balance now \$4,261.15

Lesley noted that Mansfield Pediatrics gave a donation of \$50.

Motion to accept Treasurers report by Karen Sommer; Ron Baker 2nd the motion; unanimously carried.

Margie Ouimette motioned to approve the budget pending later adjustments; Linda Blum seconded it as a “working budget”

Ron took issue with \$800 income from the cookie dough fundraiser with no one to run it. Joan Pinney should have more info on it. Margie Ouimette felt distribution was an issue because they need to keep the product refrigerated. Kimberly Clark mentioned the “working budget” aspect of the motion. Linda Blum offered to look into whether the cookie dough fundraiser was worth it. Ron Baker and Karen Sommer offered to look into coordinating the PTO fundraisers. Norma Fisher-Doiron pulled last years list. Lesley Sweeney has a list of income from the various fundraisers that have been offered and will present it at the next meeting. Linda Blum said will find a cookie dough rep.

Kimberly Clark offered to do up a Sign Up poster with specific fundraiser roles listed. Edmond Chibeau will call the Parent’s Hour attendance list for specific requests for help. Margie Ouimette offered to do a candle fundraiser for the playscape.

Miscellaneous:

The Clark Family has “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” boxes and will distribute them.

Motion to adjourn: Margie Ouimette

Motion seconded by: Margaret Morrison

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 PM
RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY: MONIQUE M. BROWN 10/19/05
NEXT MEETING: November 7, 2005